

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE

1. The intelligence school in Brno was ostensibly an SNB school; in reality it was an StB school and in April 1951 all instructors changed from SNB to StB insignia and uniforms. Although this school was compulsory for all StB men, it offered only basic training; the graduates later attended more specialized schools.
2. The school was housed in a three-story stone building which measured about 60-70 x 50 m., and was located on Lerchova Ulice in the Masarykova section of Brno. The school trained 100-120 students at a time; there were no women students. While I was there, the student body was divided into four platoons of 25 to 30 men each. Classes ran consecutively, but not concurrently. New students did not arrive at the school until after the old students had graduated. Instruction was given to all four platoons simultaneously. There was no exchange of students between platoons once instruction had begun, but instructors were interchanged. Meals and quarters for the students were provided in the school building itself. Living quarters and classrooms were located on the second and third floors while the ground floor was occupied by the administration offices and mess hall.

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3. The school staff was composed entirely of men, all of whom were Czech nationals. At all times they wore the regular SNB uniform, without rank insignia. The teaching staff consisted of a commandant, one deputy commandant, one political officer, and seven instructors. The following is a list of the staff when I attended the school:
- a. Commanding Officer -- Lt. (fnu) SKRIBANY, about 30 years old, 187 cm. tall, heavy build, partially bald, dark blond hair.
 - b. Deputy Commanding Officer -- A Chief Patrolman (Vrchni Strazmister) occupied this position. I do not recall his name.
 - c. Political Officer -- Junior Patrolman (Mladsi Strazmister) (fnu) HERMAN, about 25 years old, 175 cm. tall, slender build, light blond hair, long face.
 - d. Instructor -- Staff Patrolman (Stabni Strazmister) (fnu) MEDLA, instructor in manual of arms, military drill, weapons, and physical training.
 - e. Instructor -- Mladsi Strazmister (fnu) KRAL, instructor in political subjects, history, and geography.
 - f. Instructor -- Vrchni Strazmister William SIROKY, instructor in law, arrest, search, and seizure.
 - g. Instructor -- Vrchni Strazmister (fnu) KASNY, instructor in surveillance, undercover operations, handling agents, interrogation, censorship, report forms, and office procedure.

There were three other instructors in the school but I do not recall their ranks.

4. Although the school was established as a training school for prospective StB agents, on occasion members of the PS were also assigned as students. Students were not selected from any particular section of Czechoslovakia, but were gathered from all walks of life. My class consisted of 30 members of the PS and approximately 90 civilians, from factories, whose chief qualification was the fact that they were staunch Communists. I believe that I was selected for attendance mainly because I understood German. The Chief of the PS Personnel Section in the PS Hq. in Prague assigned PS members to the SNB school. Quotas of students were supplied to the Personnel Section and had to be filled. The other PS men, assigned to the SNB school, were formerly border guards. Upon completion of the school those individuals were reassigned to the same normal border guard duty in the same location as before their attendance at the school. When civilians completed their course of instruction at the school, they were assigned only to the StB. Although the students had much studying to do at night, they were allowed to leave the school and go into town on pass on Saturdays from 1800 to 2300 hours and on Sundays from 1300 to 2300 hours. Although discipline was very strict, the morale of the students was very high.

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5. Subjects taught at the school consisted of law, physical training, manual of arms, military drill, police history, political indoctrination, geography, political structure of Czechoslovakia, and investigation procedures. During the first half of the five-month course, emphasis was placed on law, physical training, manual of arms, and military drill. During the second half of the course the preceding subjects, with the exception of law, were de-emphasized and stress was placed on investigation procedures, geography, police history, and the political structure of Czechoslovakia.
6. Political indoctrination was emphasized throughout the course. Political indoctrination consisted of one to two hour periods per day spent in discussions on Marxism, Leninism, the history of the Communist Party in Russia and the CSR, prominent Communist personalities and dissemination of Communist propaganda. The course on the political structure of the country dealt with the political structure of Czechoslovakia since the Communist coup d'etat in 1948 and overlapped, in many respects, the political indoctrination course. It familiarized the students with the prominent personalities in Czechoslovakia and portrayed the government of Czechoslovakia as a democracy rather than as a dictatorship.
7. Instruction in law extended from the beginning to the end of the course. The law course included a very basic coverage of criminal law, the articles of war, and laws for the security of Czechoslovakia which were taught merely as a means of familiarizing the students with the existing legal code.
8. The course in the history of the police was the complete story of the conception and development of all police agencies throughout the world.
9. The courses concerning military drill and the manual of arms were similar to those of basic infantry training. Physical training included basic principles of judo in addition to the normal exercise routine.
10. The investigation procedures course was broken down into surveillance, selection and handling of informants, office routine, report forms, arrest, search and seizure, interrogation principles, basic photography, and censorship. All subjects taught under the heading of investigation procedures consisted simply of lectures and did not include the practical use of technical equipment, because such equipment was not available to the school. Of necessity this training was very basic and was more a course of familiarization than practical application. Students were taught to select as informants people who were well known and were trusted by the population, and were supposedly apt to be secret members of resistance groups. Accumulation of compromising material (dishonest business dealings, tax evasions, personal problems, membership in Nazi organizations) was stressed when investigating well-known and respected people. These people were to be coerced into cooperation with the StB by using the compromising material for blackmail. Instruction in office routine dealt with the administrative procedures employed by the StB. Instruction in the use of report forms dealt with paper work in filling out forms for dealing with informants. The instruction pertaining to arrest, search, seizure, and interrogation taught that interrogations should be lengthy, persuasive, with concentrated questioning, and that the interrogator should be alert for all deviations or discrepancies. No third degree methods were taught in the interrogation course nor was the use of lie detectors, truth sera or other scientific means taught. Contrary to the instructions in the school, StB and SNB agents used a great deal of brutality in interrogations. Brutality and torture were officially prohibited, but were commonly practiced.

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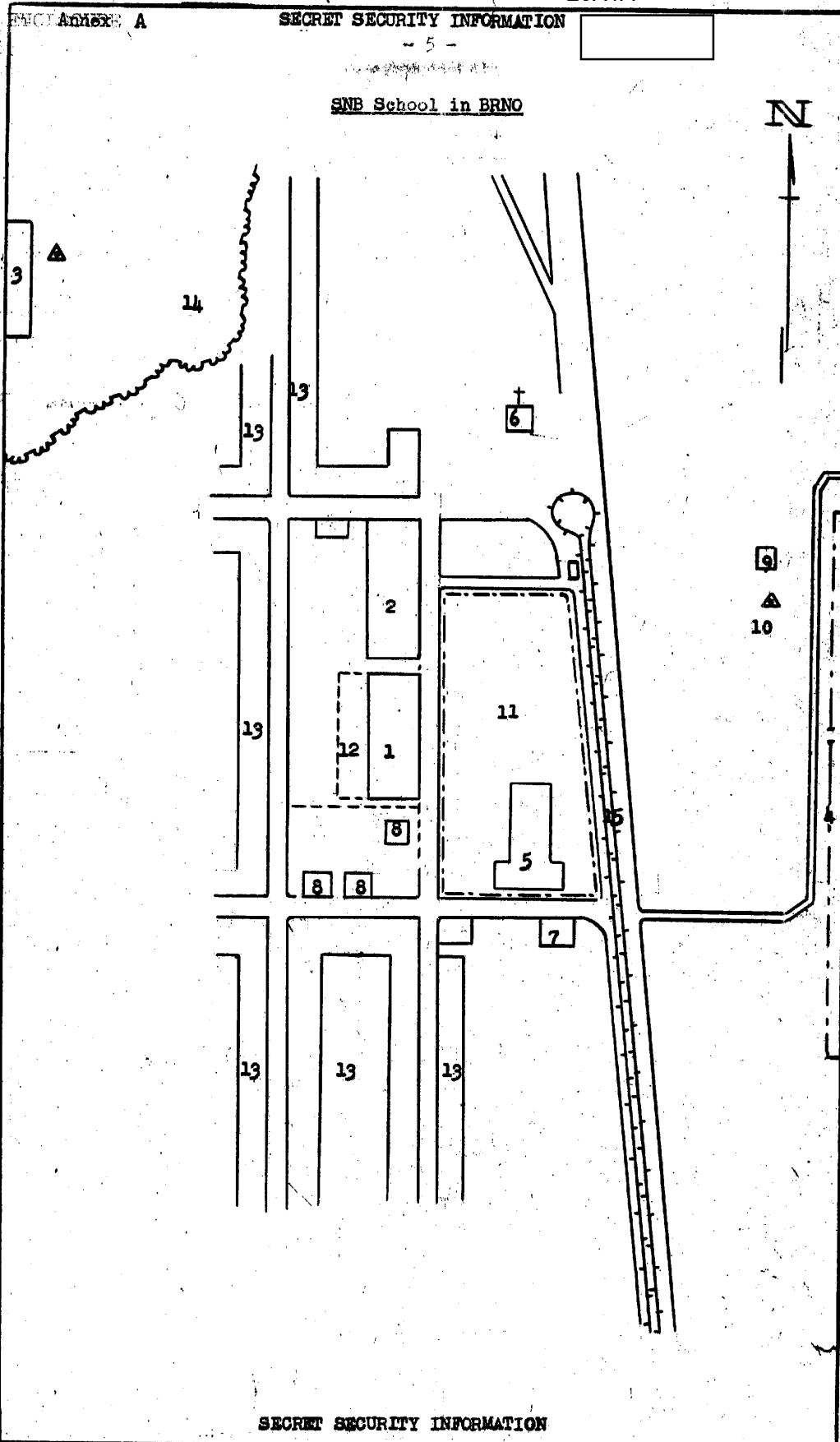
The course in basic photography consisted only of lectures describing the photographic equipment necessary for various uses. Concerning censorship, the students were simply told how to open mail by steam and how to roll letters out of unopened envelopes. No practical instruction was given to the students. The students were also told that telephone wires could be tapped and telephone conversations could be monitored, but no specific instruction in the methods of wire-tapping or monitoring were given.

11. The daily schedule at the school was as follows: Reveille at 0600, breakfast at 0630, classes from 0730 to 1200 hours, lunch from 1200 to 1400 and classes from 1400 to 1800 hours. No free study periods were included in the daily schedule; students usually studied at night.

Annex A. SNB School in Brno

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SNB School in BRNO

Legend

1. Three-story brick building, 70 x 50 m. SNB school.
1st floor - kitchen, mess hall, gymnasium, offices.
2d floor - classrooms, quarters for instructors.
3d floor - quarters for students.
2. Three-story brick building, 80 x 50 m. Military Medical Academy.
Source had heard that the Medical Academy was very crowded and that negotiations were under way to add the SNB school building as an annex to the Military Medical Academy. Many uniformed women doctors attended the academy.
3. Three or four-story brick building, 80 x 60 m. Army cadet school for officers (branch unknown). The students were 16 to 18 years of age, and wore a special dark-blue uniform. Source heard that upon graduation students were commissioned and, after a short term of service with troops, were sent to advanced military academies from which they graduated as field grade officers.
4. Area, 500 x 500 m, surrounded by a barbed wire fence 1 1/2 m high. Occupied by infantry troops who were quartered in an undetermined number of one-story wooden barracks.
5. Three or four-story brick building, 70 x 50 m. School for civilian women nurses.
6. Church.
7. Post office.
8. Civilian stores.
9. Observatory.
10. Top of hill. Exercise area for SNB and SNB school students.
11. Garden.
12. Volleyball court.
13. Civilian residences.
14. Park.
15. Street car tracks.

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